



**McGregor W. Scott**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

**NEWS RELEASE**

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rosemary Shaul, 916-554-2802

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**SIX DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR STEALING MONEY**  
**FROM BANK CUSTOMERS ACCOUNTS THROUGH THE INTERNET**

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Drew Parenti announced today that a grand jury returned a 53 count indictment which was unsealed today charging RYAN NATHAN FRIEND, 26, MICHAEL RAY BUCHANAN II, 30, CHRISTOPHER TRAVIS, 33, LLOYD TOM TRAVIS, 37, ROBERT MORENO, 29, and CESAR MORENO, 34, all of Fresno, with conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering.

The case was the result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Stanley A. Boone and Sheila K. Oberto, who are prosecuting this case, from the period of November 2003 to July 2004, the defendants and others participated in a scheme to defraud financial institutions of their customers' monies by accessing those accounts and stealing the money from those accounts by use of the Internet. In order to perpetrate this scheme, the defendants would acquire free software over the Internet which they used to scan the Internet for the purpose of finding unsuspecting individuals' and/or entities' computers which did not have proper security features in place in order to search for personal financial information such as financial account numbers and passwords. Using this improperly acquired financial information, the defendants would then access the customer's financial institution using the institution's on-line banking website. Once they had accessed a financial institution's website, the defendants accessed the customer's account and transferred money from that account to a bank account controlled by the defendants. The monies were then taken from those accounts and transferred elsewhere. Eventually the stolen monies were used by the defendants for their personal use. As a result of their scheme, the defendants acquired approximately \$383,000.

The charged counts carry a maximum of 30 years in prison and/or a \$1,000,000 fine.

However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only an allegation, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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